

Appl. No. 10/004,834
Amdt. dated January 19, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 18, 2003

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 28 (cancelled).

29. (withdrawn) A subfloor for covering a floor to form a surface to receive a detachable decorative floor covering, the subfloor comprising:

- a plurality of anchor sheets each having a first upper surface substantially covered by a means for detachable attachment;
- the plurality of anchor sheets being arranged to substantially cover the floor to form a subfloor having the upper surface;
- a plurality of passageways extending formed in whole or in part from one or more anchor sheets from the upper surface of the subfloor to the floor;
- the passageways having a portion countersunk from the upper surface of the subfloor, forming a first bearing surface below the plane of the subfloor;
- a plurality of attachment devices each having a second upper surface substantially covered by a means for detachable attachment;
- the plurality of attachment devices being shaped to fit into the passageways, the attachment devices having a wider upper portion to create a second bearing surface;
- the plurality of attachment devices being inserted into the passageways such that the second bearing surface faces the first bearing surface; and
- at least some of the attachment devices being attached to the floor.

30. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 29, wherein:

- the anchor sheets have at least two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and at least two adjacent lower edges substantially under the overhang;
- the anchor sheets have at least two adjacent edges which have an upper portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two adjacent underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay; and

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the plurality of anchor sheets are arranged in overlapping fashion to substantially cover the floor to form a subfloor.

31. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 30 wherein the means for detachable attachment is hooks for use in a hook and loop attachment system.

32. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 31 wherein:
the anchor sheets have a first lower surface opposite the first upper surface covered by a first resilient layer; and
the attachment devices have a second lower surface opposite the second upper surface covered by a second resilient layer.

33. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 32 wherein the first resilient layer and the second resilient layer is a structure with the properties of a resilient cushion.

34. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 31, wherein the anchor sheets are polygonal and have corners and are arranged on the floor so at least some of the corners meet and at least one passageway is located at the intersection of the apexes of at least some of the corners which meet.

35. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 34 wherein a passageway is located at substantially all of the intersections of the apexes of the corners which meet.

36. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 31, wherein some of the attachment devices are attached to the anchor sheets.

37. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 31, wherein the anchor sheets are rectangular.

38. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 31, wherein the plurality of attachment devices inserted in the passageways are smaller than the passageways so that the surrounding anchor

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sheets can move in relation to the attachment devices and in which the anchor sheets are installed so that there is a gap between adjacent anchor sheets to allow for expansion and contraction

39. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 30, wherein at least one passageway is located at the apexes of the angles formed by any two of the lower edges and the underlay edges.

40. (withdrawn) A subfloor for covering a floor to form a surface to receive a detachable decorative floor covering having a loop undersurface comprising:

a plurality of square anchor sheets each having a first upper surface substantially covered

by hooks for attachment to loops of an overlapping decorative covering and each

having a first lower surface having a resilient cushion layer;

each anchor sheet having two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to

create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and two adjacent lower edges

substantially under the overhang and having two adjacent edges having an upper

portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two

additional underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay;

the plurality of anchor sheets being arranged in a chess board pattern in which the

overhanging area of anchor sheet overlaps part of the underlay area of two

adjacent anchor sheets to substantially cover the floor;

a plurality of circular passageways extending from the upper surface of the subfloor to

the floor located approximately at the apexes of the angles formed by any two of the lower edges;

the passageways having a first portion countersunk from the upper surface of the subfloor

and forming a first bearing surface below the plane of the subfloor;

a plurality of circular attachment devices each having a second upper surface

substantially covered by hooks and each having a second lower surface having a

resilient cushion layer; and

the plurality of attachment devices being inserted into the passageways such that the

second bearing surface faces the first bearing surface and shaped so that the first

upper surface and the second upper surface are substantially flush, and at least

some of the devices being attached to the floor.

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41. (withdrawn) A method of installing an anchor sheet subfloor over a floor, the subfloor to receive a detachable decorative covering, said anchor sheets having a cut-away section of reduced thickness of a first area of a first shape at the corners of the anchor sheets and a complete cut of a smaller second area of a second shape within the first area, comprising the steps of:

- laying the anchor sheets over a floor;
- aligning the anchor sheets so that the corners of the anchor sheets match;
- inserting the attachment devices in the completely cut area at the apexes formed by the corners of the anchor sheets; and
- attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap consists of attaching some of the attachment devices to the floor and the remaining attachment devices to the anchor sheets they overlap.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap consists of attaching all of the attachment devices to the anchor sheets they overlap.

44. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the step of attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap consists of attaching all of the attachment devices to the floor.

45. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41 further comprising a step of detachably attaching a decorative covering to the anchor sheets and attachment devices.

46. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the attachment devices are smaller than the first and second areas and in which the step of laying the anchor sheets over a floor

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comprises laying the anchor sheets over a floor so that there is a gap between adjacent anchor sheets.

47. (original) An anchor sheet shaped to have a substantially flat square lower layer part having an underside covered in a resilient cushion and a substantially flat square upper layer part of the same size as the lower layer part having an upper side substantially covered in hooks in which the upper layer part is offset from the lower layer part an equal amount along two adjacent edges to expose two adjacent portions of the lower layer part and in which countersunk holes are formed through the anchor sheet centred on the corners formed by the lower layer part.

48. (withdrawn) A subfloor for covering a floor to form a surface to receive a detachable decorative floor covering, the subfloor comprising:

- a plurality of anchor sheets each having a first upper surface substantially covered by a means for detachable attachment;
- the plurality of anchor sheets being arranged to substantially cover the floor to form a subfloor;
- the anchor sheets having a recess of a first shape reducing the thickness of the anchor sheet in a first area and a complete cut through the anchor sheet of a second shape of a smaller second area within the first area;
- a plurality of attachment devices each having a second upper surface substantially covered by a means for detachable attachment;
- the plurality of attachment devices having a first portion shaped to fit in the recess and a second portion shaped to fit in the complete cut;
- the plurality of attachment devices being inserted in the plurality of recesses and complete cuts; and
- at least some of the attachment devices being attached to the floor.

49. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 48, wherein:

- the anchor sheets have at least two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and at least two adjacent lower edges substantially under the overhang;

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the anchor sheets have at least two adjacent edges which have an upper portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two adjacent underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay; and
the plurality of anchor sheets are arranged in overlapping fashion to substantially cover the floor to form a subfloor.

50. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 49 wherein the means for detachable attachment is hooks for use in a hook and loop attachment system.

51. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 50 wherein:
the anchor sheets have a first lower surface opposite the first upper surface covered by a first resilient layer; and
the attachment devices have a second lower surface opposite the second upper surface covered by a second resilient layer.

52. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 50, wherein the anchor sheets are rectangular.

53. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 50, wherein the plurality of attachment devices inserted in the plurality of recesses and complete cuts are smaller than the first and second areas so that the surrounding anchor sheets can move in relation to the attachment devices and in which the anchor sheets are installed so that there is a gap between adjacent anchor sheets.

54. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 50, wherein the first shape is the same shape as the second shape.

55. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 50, wherein the recess and complete cut are at the corners of the anchor sheet.

56. (withdrawn) The subfloor of claim 49, wherein the complete cut is at the apexes of the angles formed by any two of the lower edges and the underlay edges.

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57. (withdrawn) A kit for installing a subfloor for attaching a decorative covering, the kit comprising:

at least one anchor sheet having a first upper surface substantially covered by a means for detachable attachment;

the at least one anchor sheet having a recess of a first shape reducing the thickness of the anchor sheet in a first area and a complete cut through the anchor sheet of a smaller second area within the first area of a second shape;

at least one attachment device having a second upper surface substantially covered by a means for detachable attachment; and

the at least one attachment device having a first portion shaped to fit in the recess and a second portion shaped to fit in the complete cut.

58. (withdrawn) The kit of claim 57, further comprising:

the at least one anchor sheet having at least two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and at least two adjacent lower edges substantially under the overhang; and

the at least one anchor sheet having at least two adjacent edges which have an upper portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two adjacent underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay.

59. (withdrawn) The kit of claim 57, further comprising:

the means for attachment being hooks for use in a hook and loop attachment system.

60. (currently amended) An anchor sheet for use in a subfloor for detachable attachment to a decorative covering, the anchor sheet comprising:

an upper surface having a means for detachable attachment to the decorative covering;
a lower surface opposite the upper surface, the lower surface being covered with a resilient layer;

a recess of a first shape reducing the thickness of the anchor sheet in a first area; and
a complete cut through the anchor sheet of a smaller second area within the first area of a second shape;[.]

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wherein the anchor sheet has at least two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and at least two adjacent lower edges substantially under the overhang; and
the anchor sheet has at least two adjacent edges which have an upper portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two adjacent underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay.

61. (cancelled)

62. (original) The anchor sheet of claim 60, wherein the means for attachment are hooks for use in a hook and loop attachment system.

63. (original) The anchor sheet of claim 62, wherein the resilient layer is a structure that has the properties of a resilient cushion.

64. (original) The anchor sheet of claim 62, wherein the anchor sheet is rectangular.

65. (withdrawn) An attachment device for use in a subfloor with a corresponding anchor sheet for detachable attachment to a decorative covering, the anchor sheet having a recess of a first shape reducing the thickness of the anchor sheet in a first area, the anchor sheet having a complete cut of a smaller second area of a second shape within the first area, the attachment device comprising:

- a first upper surface bearing a means for detachable attachment;
- a first portion attached to the first upper surface and shaped to fit in the recess;
- a second portion attached to the first portion and shaped to fit in the complete cut;
- the second portion having a lower surface covered with a flexible rigid layer; and
- the second portion having at least one resilient layer.

66. (withdrawn) The attachment device of claim 65, wherein the means for detachable attachment are hooks for use in a hook and loop attachment system.

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67. (withdrawn) The attachment piece of claim 66, wherein the attachment device has a flexible rigid upper surface.

68. (withdrawn) The attachment device of claim 66, wherein the first portion is smaller than the recess and the second portion is smaller than the complete cut.

69. (withdrawn) A method of installing an anchor sheet and attachment piece subfloor over a floor, the subfloor to receive a detachable decorative covering, said anchor sheets having an upper surface having a means for detachable attachment to the decorative covering and a cut-away section of reduced thickness of a first area of a first shape and a complete cut through the anchor sheet of a smaller second area of a second shape within the first area, said attachment devices having an upper surface having a means for detachable attachment to the decorative covering, comprising the steps of:

laying the anchor sheets over a floor;

inserting the attachment devices in the complete cut areas; and

attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the surrounding anchor sheets.

70. (withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the anchor sheets are designed to overlap and the step of laying the anchor sheets over a floor consists of laying the anchor sheets in overlapping fashion over a floor.

71. (withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the step of attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap consists of attaching some of the attachment devices to the floor and the remaining attachment devices to the anchor sheets they overlap.

72. (withdrawn) The method of claim 70 wherein the step of attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap consists of attaching all of the attachment devices to the anchor sheets they overlap.

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73. (withdrawn) The method of claim 70 wherein the step of attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the anchor sheets they overlap consists of attaching all of the attachment devices to the floor.

74. (withdrawn) A method of installing an anchor sheet subfloor with an upper surface and a lower surface over a floor to receive a detachable decorative covering, said subfloor having passageways extending from the upper surface of the subfloor to the lower surface of the subfloor, said upper surface having a means of detachable attachment to the decorative covering, comprising the steps of:

- arranging the anchor sheets over a floor;
- inserting attachment devices in the passageways; and
- attaching at least some of the attachment devices to either the floor or to the surrounding anchor sheets.

75. (withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein the anchor sheets are designed to overlap and the step of arranging the anchor sheets over a floor consists of arranging the anchor sheets in overlapping fashion over a floor.

76. (original) A square anchor sheet for use in a subfloor for detachable attachment to a decorative covering, the decorative covering having a lower surface substantially covered by loops, the square anchor sheet comprising:

- an upper surface substantially covered by hooks, the hooks for attachment to the loops of an overlaid decorative covering;
- a lower surface opposite the upper surface, the lower surface being covered with a resilient layer;
- two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and two adjacent lower edges substantially under the overhang;
- two adjacent edges which have an upper portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two adjacent underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay;
- four circular recesses reducing the thickness of the anchor sheet;

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one of the circular recesses centred on the apexes of the angles formed by the two lower edges;

one of the circular recesses centred on the apexes of the angles formed by the two underlay edges;

two of the circular recesses centred on the apexes of the angles formed by an underlay edge and a lower edge;

four circular complete cuts through the anchor sheet of a smaller diameter than the four circular recesses; and

the four circular complete cuts located at the centre of the four circular recesses.

77. (new) An anchor sheet for use in a subfloor for detachable attachment to a decorative covering, the anchor sheet comprising:

an upper surface having a means for detachable attachment to the decorative covering;

a lower surface opposite the upper surface;

a recess of a first shape reducing the thickness of the anchor sheet in a first area;

a complete cut through the anchor sheet of a smaller second area within the first area of a second shape;

wherein the anchor sheet has at least two adjacent edges which have a lower portion cut away to create an overhanging area of anchor sheet and at least two adjacent lower edges substantially under the overhang; and

the anchor sheet has at least two adjacent edges which have an upper portion cut away to create an underlay area of anchor sheet leaving at least two adjacent underlay edges at the outer edge of the underlay.